

## Message Text

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15/51

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 IO-14 NIC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 SAJ-01 DRC-01

/140 W

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R 041357Z DEC 73

FM AMCONSUL MUNICH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4747

AMEMBASSY BONN

INFO USMISSION BERLIN

AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL DUESSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARA. 1., LINE 3, & PARA. 4,  
LINES 8 & 9)

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT GW

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE TROUBLE IN CSU; STRAUSS MAY CHALLENGE GOPPEL FOR  
BAVARIAN MINISTER PRESIDENT POST

SUMMARY: REPORTEDLY SERIOUS CONTROVERSY HAS ARISEN IN CSU OVER  
POSSIBLE INTENTION OF CHAIRMAN STRAUSS TO RUN FOR LANDTAG AND  
CHALLENGE ALFONS GOPPEL FOR POST OF BAVARIAN MINISTER PRESIDENT.  
RESULT COULD BE DAMAGING SPLIT IN PARTY. END SUMMARY.

1. PRESS HAS CARRIED ITEMS OVER WEEKEND INDICATING CSU PARTY  
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CHAIRMAN FRANZ JOSEF STRAUSS MIGHT RUN FOR LANDTAG IN 1974,

THUS LEADING TO WIDESPREAD SPECULATION HE IS SEEKING TO REPLACE ALFONS GOPPEL AS BAVARIAN MINISTER PRESIDENT IN 1976. ABENDZEITUNG HEADLINED/FRONT PAGED STORY ON DECEMBER 1. SITUATION APPARENTLY IS OUTGROWTH OF CLOSED SESSION OF CSU PRESIDUM IN NUERNBERG NOVEMBER 23 WHERE SEVERAL JOURNALISTS REPORTEDLY OVERHEARD LOUD STATEMENTS FROM STRAUSS EMANATING FROM CONFERENCE ROOM.

2. IN EFFORT TO PIN DOWN PRESS REPORTS, PARTICULARLY A-Z STATEMENT STRAUSS'S OFFICE IN BONN HAD CONFIRMED HE WOULD RUN FOR LANDTAG, CONSOFF TALKED WITH CSU LANDESLEITUNG HERE. LANDESLEITUNG TOLD CONSOFF THAT THEY HAD BEEN IN TOUCH WITH STRAUSS'S BONN OFFICE AND HAD RECEIVED STRICT INSTRUCTIONS "NOT TO CONFIRM OR DENY ANYTHING."

3. THERE HAVE BEEN REPORTS IN PAST STRAUSS MIGHT SEEK MINISTER PRESIDENT POST, BUT THESE HAVE ALWAYS BEEN PUT ASIDE IN INTERESTS OF PARTY HARMONY. STRAUSS AND GOPPEL HAVE BEEN WINNING TEAM, WITH STRAUSS FOCUSING ON NATIONAL AFFAIRS AND GOPPEL, A "FATHER FIGURE", VERY POPULAR ON LAND LEVEL. A CONTEST BETWEEN THE TWO COULD SPLIT CSU WIDE OPEN. ALTHOUGH STRAUSS IS MUCH APPRECIATED BY LOCAL CSU POLITICIANS AS A DYNAMIC VOTE-GETTER, HE DOES NOT ENJOY THE SAME DEGREE OF PERSONAL AFFECTION THEY HAVE FOR GOPPEL.

4. QUESTION REMAINS AS TO WHAT STRAUSS'S INTENTIONS REALLY ARE AND CSU LANDESLIETUNG IS JUST AS MUCH IN THE DARK AS EVERYONE ELSE. THOSE WHO KNOW STRAUSS WELL RULE OUT ANY DESIRE ON HIS PART TO STEP OUT OF NATIONAL POLITICS SIMPLY TO ASSURE HIMSELF A QUIET LANDTAG SEAT. AT THIS JUNCTURE IN STRAUSS'S CAREER, HE MIGHT FEEL A MINISTER PRESIDENT POSITION IS THE MOST HE COULD EXPECT. THERE ARE SOME INDICATIONS GOPPEL'S POPULARITY, AS WELL AS STATEMENTS TO THE EFFECT STRAUSS COULD NOT WIN AGAINST HIM, HAVE TOUCHED STRAUSS'S VANITY TO A POINT WHERE HE MIGHT JUST TRY TO DO SO. SHOULD THIS HAPPEN THE RESULTS COULD BE DAMAGING FOR THE CSU.

5. IT WOULD SEEM IN FINAL ANALYSIS WITH FEDREP'S INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS, THE ENERGY CRISIS AND THE IMPROVING POSITION OF THE CDU/CSU IN GERMAN POLITICS, STRAUSS WOULD WISH TO REMAIN IN BONN. HE MIGHT, HOWEVER, AS OTHERS HAVE DONE IN PAST, SEEK TO HOLD SEAT BOTH IN BUNDESTAG AND LANDTAG, THEREBY KEEPING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ALL HIS OPTIONS OPEN. PRESENT SITUATION COULD BE FEELER TO

SEE WHAT REACTION MIGHT BE TO A LANDTAG CANDIDACY ON HIS PART.  
VALDES

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, ELECTION CANDIDATES, ELECTION INTERFERENCE, PARTY SCHISMS, MINISTERIAL MEETINGS, CENTRAL LEGISLATURE, ELECTIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION, PROVINCIAL ELECTIONS, PROVINCIAL GOVERNOR  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 04 DEC 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** morefirh  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
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**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Review Date:** 01 AUG 2001  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** POSSIBLE TROUBLE IN CSU; STRAUSS MAY CHALLENGE GOPPEL FOR BAVARIAN MINISTER PRESIDENT POST  
**TAGS:** PINT, GE, CSU, (STRAUSS), (GOPPEL, ALFONS), (STRAUSS, FRANZ JOSEF)  
**To:** STATE BONN  
**Type:** TE  
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